## REMARKS

Claims 1-12 have been canceled and claims 13-25 added. Claims 13-25 correspond to the allowed claims of the parent application, U.S. Application No. 09 370,295. No new matter is added by the addition of claims 13-25.

Entry of the amendments and favorable consideration of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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## VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In showing the changes, deleted material is shown as brackets, and inserted material is shown underlined.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

**First paragraph on page 1:**

This application is a continuation application of U.S. Application No. 09/370,295, filed August 9, 1999, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/096,342, filed August 12, 1998.

**First complete paragraph on page 6:**

"Codon degeneracy" refers to divergence in the genetic code permitting variation of the nucleotide sequence without [effecting] affecting the amino acid sequence of an encoded polypeptide. Accordingly, the instant invention relates to any nucleic acid fragment comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes all or a substantial portion of the amino acid sequences set forth herein. The skilled artisan is well aware of the "codon-bias" exhibited by a specific host cell in usage of nucleotide codons to specify a given amino acid. Therefore, when synthesizing a nucleic acid fragment for improved expression in a host cell, it is desirable to design the nucleic acid fragment such that its frequency of codon usage approaches the frequency of preferred codon usage of the host cell.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Claims 1-12 canceled.**

**Claims 13-25 added.**